

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Specification Changes

On page 1, in the first paragraph beginning at line 3 has been amended to reflect the current status of the present application.

On page 7, in the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8, the term "Selexol" has been identified as trademark and generic terminology has been added to identify the composition of the Selexol.

Figure 1 of the drawing has been changed to remove numeral 141, which is not referred to in the specification.

35 USC § 103

The claims were previously rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being obvious over Grover (U.S. Pat. No. 4,702,898) in view of Suzuki et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,667,561).

Such rejection should be deemed improper, especially in view of the amendments made herein. Each of the amended claims 24-38 expressly recite that the recovery plant recovers a gaseous component from a "...process gas having a pressure of between about 2 psig and less than 20 psia..." This element is neither taught nor suggested in Suzuki's plant configuration. On the contrary, **Suzuki clearly teaches against such a configurations** as the compressed feed gas 1 (typically at 410 psia) requires substantial flashing (see *e.g.*, JT valve 5 to 22.7 psia) in the flash chamber 6 to remove carbon dioxide. Modification of Suzuki's plant configuration to one in which the feed gas in the absorber has a pressure of less than 20 psia **would render Suzuki's plant inoperable**. Consequently, no person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such a modification, let alone would have had any reasonable expectation of success.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

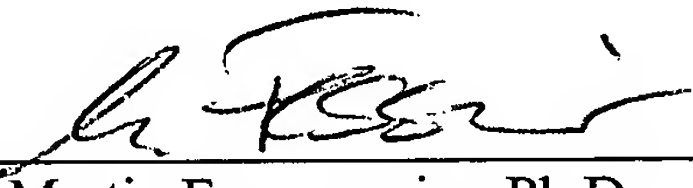
Claims 24-38 are pending in this application. The applicant requests allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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